

### South Carolina.

The HAYES electors and the TILDEN electors will meet in Columbia to-day and cast their votes—each set for its own candidate. Governor HAMPTON will doubtless certify to the election of the one set, and Governor CHAMBERLAIN to the election of the other set. Each set will be duly supplied with credentials. The titles of the two claimants to the governorship are such that each of those titles will be pronounced good by one or the other house of Congress. Now, who is to decide? Can Congress shirk its duty, or escape it in any way?

As to the bogus House, it ought to disappear to-day; and will if Florida casts her vote for TILDEN. It was kept up by General GRANT only that it might count CHAMBERLAIN in, so that he in turn might certify to the election of the HAYES electors. When the bogus House dissolves, if dissolve it shall, CHAMBERLAIN's claim to the Governorship will fall with it.

But if Florida be counted for HAYES, as Louisiana and South Carolina have already been, and Oregon shall not come up to TILDEN's help-to-day (Nebraska failed him yesterday), then GRANT will continue CHAMBERLAIN in office, and recognize the bogus House as a means to an end—the end being the due authentication of the certificates of election of the HAYES electors in South Carolina. It is useless to speculate. This day will tell the tale. Perhaps amongst the 166 HAYES electors in the northern States one honest man may be found who will cast his vote for TILDEN. Perhaps the needed elector may be found in South Carolina. Let us still hope. Who knows but Florida may give one vote, or even more, for the Great Reformer?

### The South Carolina Legislature.

The latest news of all tells us that the HAMPTON House is now beyond a doubt the constitutional House of Representatives of South Carolina. Not even TAYLOR, or ROBERTS, or GRANT, will dare to touch that House now, it would seem to us. The bogus House has counted in CHAMBERLAIN. The real House will count in HAMPTON. On the other hand, the Senate that aided in counting in CHAMBERLAIN is the real Senate, and the Democratic seceders cannot set up for themselves as a Senate, and have not attempted to do it. What the Democratic House will do for a Senate we cannot predict. Perhaps the real Senate will now come over and aid the real House in counting the vote for Governor.

It seems that the law requires the Governor to be sworn in by the Chief Justice of the State. Judge MOSKES cannot perform this office for CHAMBERLAIN.

So, as to South Carolina, we have to repeat what we have so frequently said—we must wait for further news, before we can tell which party is to control the State. HAMPTON says either he will be Governor or there will be a military Governor; and we suspect that he means what he says, and what he has the power to bring true.

### Louisiana.

The expectation of the public of the whole country has become fast. The villains who compose the Radical Cynicalism Board of Louisiana have thrown out votes enough to convert TILDEN's majority of from seven to nine thousand into a majority of over four thousand for HAYES. The vote of a State has been stolen. The whole election for President is tainted with fraud. The broad Union is the victim of trickery, cheating, and swindling. Two unprincipled negroes, combined with two unprincipled white men who are worse than the negroes, have elected a President of the United States, so far as the vote of Louisiana can accomplish that end, over the united votes of millions of intelligent, honest, white citizens—in spite of a popular majority of three hundred thousand white males over twenty-one years of age, and, if ignorant negroes be omitted, in spite of a popular majority of a million of free white males over that age; and that, too, over majorities for TILDEN in Boston, New York city, Brooklyn, Baltimore, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, and almost every large city in the Union. The outrage is unpeppable great. It poisons the politics of the entire land. It will sink in the nostrils of the people of every civilized country in the world, and make our boasted free institutions the laughing-stock of the nations.

But the Democratic electors will meet to-day and cast their votes for TILDEN. They will have certificates of election from Mr. McEWEN, who is really the man who was elected Governor of Louisiana two years ago. They will send a certificate that they voted for TILDEN to the President of the Senate at Washington to compel Congress to take notice of the frauds in that State.

The end is not yet. Louisiana negroes and carpet-baggers are not yet equal in dignity and power to Congress.

### Florida.

A ray of hope reaches us from Florida. The report prevalent in Washington yesterday that it had gone for TILDEN furnishes some foundation for the hope. It is too bad that the telegraph line should have broken down just at the critical moment. There are other rumors that Florida has been counted for TILDEN. But the rumors are not such as would justify us in stating them as anything more than rumors.

### The General Assembly.

The General Assembly of Virginia meets to-day at 12 M. in the Capitol. There will be a quorum of both houses present. The arrivals of senators and members leave no doubt of it. Governor KEMPER's message will be sent in after the bodies are called to order. The organizations of the last session continue.

Late telegrams from Mr. ROBERTS, of New Orleans, of all his HAYES thunder. He made a mountain of a mole-hill, and the effort ends in a mouse. Mr. ROBERTS endeavored, apparently, to make a bargain, but all that he got was the remark by HAYES that if President he would do his best to have "a fair and honest administration." He could say no less, and GRANT could say no less. How could he? Hasn't GRANT endeavored to have a fair administration, and furthermore, to have a "fair court," and prevent anybody from being seated in the presidential chair by fraud? But ROBERTS is not a diplomatist—not he.

It is a little remarkable that two Massachusetts Republicans—Messrs. SEELYE and PRENCE—voted with the Democrats in the House of Representatives for sending committees to the disputed southern States. Mr. BAILEY (Republican), of New York, also voted with them. These votes secured the two-thirds; without which the committees could not have been appointed.

### The President's Message.

We imagine that the first feeling which will come over every man after he shall read the President's message will be one of unbounded surprise. Not one word does it contain concerning Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, HAYES, or Democratic intimidation, unless by implication in some general remarks on other subjects. We had expected a tirade of abuse of the South. The President has, however, revenged himself upon our northern Democratic brethren. He evidently considers them much worse than the southern Democrats. We were greatly amused at reading his hearty denunciations of the former. But his language is undignified, and will do him more harm than it will the subjects of his caustic censures.

General GRANT's apologetic introduction must also surprise the public not a little. We should as soon have expected from BEAST BUTLER a plea in abatement in the case of the world against him for his villainies at New Orleans during the war. The President, however, will not damage himself in any good man's estimation by acknowledging that he has committed blunders.

We have no room for an extended criticism of the message, even if we had the disposition to write it. After having called the northern Democrats swindlers and "enemies in the rear" of the army in the field, and told of the difficulties of reconstruction, the President alludes to the redemption of taxes. We need say here only that we do not admit what he claims for his party in respect of this matter.

Upon Indian affairs, and upon whatever else belongs to the several departments, the President touches in the style usual with his predecessors in office. He raps the Democratic House over the knuckles for their "expensive economy" in cutting down the cost of the diplomatic service. He tells Congress plainly that he ordered the money appropriated by Congress to rivers and harbors to be expended as he pleased.

The President believes in compulsory education. He also recommends an educational qualification for new voters. He also repeats, in an appendix at the end of his message, all his recommendations as made to Congress during his two terms. The one in regard to San Domingo appears in the body of the message. What he says is worth reading as coming from him.

The President treats the subject of a new extradition treaty with England, and also the subject of naturalization—both at some length.

As a whole the message is a much better one than we had expected from General GRANT. Mr. Fish has evidently had more influence with him than all the other members of the Cabinet together.

P. S. The reference in our telegram to the surprise felt in Washington when the message had been read, readers it proper for us to say that the above short editorial, which commences with saying that such surprise would be felt by every man who might read the message, was written several hours before the telegram aforesaid was received.

### President Grant.

And now there is much talk about President GRANT's attitude and opinions. We have always looked upon the President as an enigma. We have never known him to do the handsome thing clean and thorough. There is always a hitch. But when he comes to a measure of force and usurpation he has been as obstinate and as pertinacious as he showed himself to be when he set down before Richmond. In the instructions and measures for "an honest court," and "intimidation," and all that sort of thing, the real end of which was the capture of the three disputed States for HAYES, there has been a steady stream of rumor about what he says and what he does. Hopes of one day, based upon the idea that he is relenting, are blasted the next, and speculations that momentarily soothe feelings against General GRANT are soon dissipated like frost before the sun. Whenever the atmosphere that has been clouded with regard to him clears up, there is General GRANT, like a red-hot iron, still at his post, holding on to his "policy."

That sincere gentleman, Governor RANDOLPH, left the White House with increased respect for President GRANT and the brightest hopes for the deliverance of the land from its troubles and fearful apprehensions. Yet, as Governor RANDOLPH left the front door of the White House the bull-dog SHERMAN was sent off by the back door, and arrived at New Orleans most promptly to inaugurate all the oppression and brutality which Governor RANDOLPH too readily believed General GRANT meant to discontinue.

At this time the country is deeply interested in Mr. HAYES's visit to the President, and fine stories are made of what passed between them. Mr. HAYES won't tell what was said. The extent of what Mr. HAYES has confessed is that the President said "it was not his province to decide whether or not the elections in the States had been fair or not." And yet we do not see him through his military force, and Judge BOON, and the lying agents, sustaining the frauds of the returning boards, which were so monstrous that they could not have been committed without the support of the President through his soldiers?

Mr. HAYES's telegram amounts only to this. That gentleman were to attempt to reduce the inflated story of what took place at the interview he would have to bow it down immensely. True, he says that the President and himself, upon the assumption that the joint session of Congress should throw out the vote of Louisiana, "discussed the effect of such action." Very likely, indeed! It is as incongruous as is GRANT himself. People go on to say that GRANT is grown more civilized, and sides with Mr. Fish. But is not TAYLOR in Columbia, and is not the South Carolina Democratic House of Representatives expelled from the State-House by the trick device of TAYLOR—by the constabulary, with Federal marshals in their midst, superintending and guiding? Was not this trick set about to provoke that conflict which would justify, as was believed, the seizure of the government of the State by Federal military, and the thorough establishment of the Radicals in Columbia? What further humiliation and tyranny is intended time will show. But if GRANT sides with Fish in counsel, is not TAYLOR, the pettifogger and trickster, sent to Columbia to do indirectly the very thing which Fish had disapproved of? ANDREW JOHNSON said that GRANT would not tell the truth, and if so we cannot expect him to deal sincerely with any one.

Democrats cannot trust him. They must take care of themselves.

If GRANT is inclined to give predominance to civil authority over the military, under the wise counsels of Mr. Fish, what would be easier for him to do than to recall TAYLOR and BOON, and to withdraw his soldiers, and thus to leave the States to manage their own local matters, as the Constitution plainly tells he should do? No, he won't do this; and this alone can prove his sincerity. The soldiers will remain until the consummation of the work of usurpation and the work of fraud supported by usurpation. Rest assured of that. Relenting, indeed! GRANT again appears, as GREENE once represented him, in the skin of the sheep, placed out with the fall of the fox!

If this American CÆsar would make friends of all people let him follow the advice of CARO to the Roman CÆsar:

"Did him dish his legions,  
Restore the Commonwealth to liberty;  
Suborn the people to the public cause,  
And stand the judgment of a Roman Senate;  
But him do this, and Cato is his friend."

What the immediate inauguration of the Governor of South Carolina means we do not know. The term of office is supposed to commence on the 1st of January. How it is that the telegrams all state that the new Governor takes office to-day, or forthwith—in the middle of the last month of the year—we cannot explain. We find it stated in the *Tribune* almanac—generally good authority—that January 1st, 1877, is the time when the new Governor comes in.

Mr. EDWARDS's resolution inquires into the eligibility of electors of President and Vice-President, and whether Congress has any power over returns or certificates of votes of such electors. This looks as if the Senate had some correct notions on the subject.

### The Hayes-Roberts Sensation.

We put no faith in this stuff. HAYES could not if he would peel off from his party at this time; nor could he at this juncture effect an understanding with the party leaders to play a deceitful game under the disguise of a compromise to get himself elected to the presidential chair. We do not believe the ultra Radicals would be a party to a deceitful compromise that would promise a great deal to the southern people. They would feel irrepressible suspicions that such a compromise might be too fully fulfilled by HAYES. There was one point in the reputed declaration of Governor HAYES that discredited the whole report: that was that he proposed to put Mr. TAMAR in his Cabinet if he should be President. Governor HAYES could not go to the Democratic party for a member of his Cabinet.

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The Boston *Advertiser*, the ablest of Republican papers in the United States, while it thinks that a fair election in the contested southern States would be in favor of HAYES, nevertheless asks the serious question "Can we afford to reverse the vote of a State?" We should think not.

Here it is. The Republican majority in Oregon is 1,165.

### PETERSBURG.

PERSONAL DIFFICULTY BETWEEN CAPTAIN HINTON AND MR. REUBEN RAGLAND—THE PARTIES BATTLED FOR EXAMINATION.  
(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)  
DECEMBER 5, 1876.

A personal difficulty occurred near the depot of the Petersburg railroad this morning, in which several gentlemen became involved, and which, unfortunately, resulted in no serious damage to any of the parties. The cause of the difficulty was some remarks made by Captain Drury A. Hinton, the City and Commonwealth's attorney, at the late meeting of the Common Council, on the proposition to effect a settlement with Mr. Reuben Ragland, relative to the controversy between him and the city. Mr. Hinton earnestly opposed entertaining any proposition from Mr. Ragland, and during his speech made remarks at which Mr. Ragland took offense. This morning Mr. Ragland came over from Richmond with the intention of meeting Mr. Hinton, and the two gentlemen met at the corner of Washington and Union streets, near where the train upon which Mr. Ragland came over stopped.

Mr. Hinton's statement of the affair is substantially as follows: He went down Washington street to the depot shortly after a o'clock, as was his custom. When he arrived near the corner of Washington and Union streets he saw Mr. Ragland nearly opposite, walking up and down the sidewalk. As he approached the corner Mr. Ragland crossed over and passed in front of him some ten or twelve feet, going down Union street. It occurred to him that Mr. Ragland might attack him, and as he approached the corner he saw through the glass windows of the store on the corner Mr. Ragland pull out a pistol, and he thought, from a cursory view, cock it. He was satisfied that he was in danger, and he immediately drew his own pistol, and when he reached the corner, Mr. Ragland did attack him as he passed the store, having a pistol in one hand and a cowhide in the other, striking at Mr. Hinton with the cowhide. Mr. Hinton says he then rushed into Mr. Ragland and over him, going down Union street. It occurred to him that Mr. Ragland might attack him, and as he approached the corner he saw through the glass windows of the store on the corner Mr. Ragland pull out a pistol, and he thought, from a cursory view, cock it. He was satisfied that he was in danger, and he immediately drew his own pistol, and when he reached the corner, Mr. Ragland did attack him as he passed the store, having a pistol in one hand and a cowhide in the other, striking at Mr. Hinton with the cowhide. Mr. Hinton says he then rushed into Mr. Ragland and over him, going down Union street.

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Mr. Ragland says his intention was to attack Mr. Hinton with the cowhide; that he aimed himself with pistols to use only in case of necessity. He says that he was being led off between two gentlemen, with his head wounded and bleeding, he supposed he had been shot, as reported by Mr. Hinton. Incensed at the latter, he rushed upon him and struck him, and a scuffle and blows followed.

Both parties were taken in custody, carried before the Mayor, and required to give bond in the sum of \$1,000 to keep the peace and to appear at court to-morrow morning for an investigation of the case.

There was at one time some appearance of a difficulty between Mr. TOSH and Mr. WILSON, Hinton's counsel, and Mr. BOON, above, when the latter was also required to give bond to keep the peace. Explaining, however, that he had said and done all he intended, and that he would commit no breach of the peace, the bond was remitted.

ROBIN ADAMS.

BEATING THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME.—The Colorado case came up in another shape to-day, when General Banks tried to have the name of Mr. Belford, the Representative elect, put on the roll before the vote was taken on the election of a Speaker. The next House, it is well known, will be exceedingly close, and the clerk has almost arbitrary power in making up the list of members. By putting on the roll any names he can throw the organization of the House to one party or the other, and Mr. Banks's object to-day was to establish a precedent that the House could direct the clerk to put names on the roll. The Republicans voted to establish the precedent, and the Democrats all voted in opposition. It therefore rests entirely with Mr. ADAMS to say how much majority the Democrats shall have in the next House.—*Washington special to the Baltimore American.*

[That's the way McPherson kept out all the northern Representatives in 1865.]

### GRANT'S VALEDICTORY.

#### President Ulysses's Last Message to the Congress of the Nation.

HIS RETROSPECTIVE GLANCE AT HIS OWN CAREER. A REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT. SOUTHERN AFFAIRS IGNORED—ADJUSTMENT OF THE CLAIMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO—FRAUDULENT NATURALIZATION—RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR—ABOUT THE CENTENNIAL—THE METHOD OF CHOOSING A PRESIDENT—A SYNOPSIS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EVENTS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1876.  
To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my eighth and last annual message to Congress it seems proper that I should refer to and in some degree recapitulate the events and official acts of the last eight years. It was my fortune, or misfortune, to be called to the office of Chief Executive without previous political training. From the age of seventeen I had never even witnessed the excitement attending a presidential campaign but twice antecedent to my candidacy, and at that time I was a young man, and under such circumstances it is but reasonable to suppose that errors of judgment must have occurred. Even had they not, differences of opinion between the Executive, bound by an oath to the strict performance of his duties, and advisers and declaimers must have arisen. It is not necessarily evidence of blunders on the part of the Executive because there are these differences of views. Mistakes have been made, as all can see, and as I admit; but it seems to me oftener in the selections made of the assistants to the Executive, and in the carrying out of the various duties of administering the Government—in nearly every case selected without a personal acquaintance with the appointees, but upon the recommendations of the representatives chosen directly by the people. It is possible, however, that the right party should be chosen in every instance. History shows that no administration from the time of Washington to the present has been free from these mistakes; but I leave comparisons to history, claiming only that I have not been every year a declaimer, and contented myself with doing what was right, constitutional within the law, and for the best interests of the whole people. Failures have been errors of judgment, not of intent. My civil career commenced, too, at a most critical and difficult time, and I have been ever since engaged in a constant struggle from a conflict such as no other free nation had ever survived. Nearly one half of the States had revolted against the Government, and of those remaining faithful to the Union a large percentage of the population sympathized with the rebellion, and were almost as dangerous as the more honorable enemy in the front. The latter committed errors of judgment, but they maintained openly and courageously. The former received the protection of the Government they would see destroyed, and reaped all the advantage to be gained out of them existing state of affairs, by swerving the Government in the delivery of their goods. Immediately on the cessation of hostilities the noble President, who had carried the country so far through its perils, fell a martyr to his patriotism at the hands of an assassin. The intervening time, to my first inauguration, was filled up with these questions. I have been almost as dangerous as the more honorable enemy in the front. The latter committed errors of judgment, but they maintained openly and courageously. The former received the protection of the Government they would see destroyed, and reaped all the advantage to be gained out of them existing state of affairs, by swerving the Government in the delivery of their goods. Immediately on the cessation of hostilities the noble President, who had carried the country so far through its perils, fell a martyr to his patriotism at the hands of an assassin. The intervening time, to my first inauguration, was filled up with these questions. I have been almost as dangerous as the more honorable enemy in the front. The latter committed errors of judgment, but they maintained openly and courageously. 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